

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05283 111517Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----079556 111522Z /44

P 111423Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9619
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T BEIRUT 5283

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE SY
SUBJ: SITUATION IN LEBANON--CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER
AL-HOSS

1. NEA/ARN DIRECTOR DESIGNATE CLUVERIUS, DCM KINSOLVING, AND
AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS AT HIS RESIDENCE,
AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 8. HOSS IN SUBDUED MOOD AS IS EVERYONE ELSE
IN BEIRUT AT THE MOMENT. WE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN COUNTRY
AT SOME LENGTH AND HE MADE PREDICTABLE COMMENTS ABOUT ISRAELI ROLE
AND ATTITUDES OF PARTIES. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
BOTH AMINE GEMAYEL AND DANY CHAMOUN AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME-
HOW SYRIANS WERE STILL MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH AMINE AND THAT
AMINE AND DANY WERE ALSO MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS.

2. AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR LEBA-
NESE ARMY TO MOVE INTO THE CITY TO REPLACE SYRIANS, POINTING OUT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05283 111517Z

THAT SOME WAY MUST BE FOUND TO SEPARATE MARONITES FROM SYRIANS IN
BEIRUT AREA. HOSS SAID THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAD PROVIDED
FOR SEPARATION WHEN SYRIANS WITHDREW FROM CERTAIN ADVANCE POSI-
TION IN WESTERN ASHRAFIYAH, THUS LEAVING GAP OF 200 YARDS.
CHRISTIAN MILITIA HAD MOVED FORWARD TO AGAIN BE FACE-TO-FACE WITH
THE SYRIANS. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF LEBANESE ARMY MOVING
IN, WHILE IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN EAST BEIRUT AT PRESENT TIME

IT WAS NOT AT ALL ACCEPTABLE IN WEST BEIRUT. MOSLEMS HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN ARMY WHICH WAS CONTROLLED ABSOLUTELY BY A MARONITE COMMANDER IN CHIEF WHO WAS NOT SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY ANY ONE ELSE. THIS WAS NO REFLECTION ON GENERAL KHOURY, FOR WHOM HE HAD THE HIGHEST REGARD, BUT KHOURY HAD MAINTAINED IN COMMAND CERTAIN OFFICERS, SUCH AS ALBERT MUNAYYIR, WHO WERE FANATIC PARTISANS OF THE CHRISTIAN LINE.

3. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN UNITS SUCH AS THE GARRISON AT SARBA WHICH WERE CONTROLLED BY MARONITES BUT THERE WERE OTHER UNITS WHICH HAD BEEN FORMED AT YARZE WHICH WERE INTEGRATED. WOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THESE TROOPS TO ENTER WEST BEIRUT? HOSS SAID PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH UNITS, IT WAS WITH THE COMMAND STRUCTURE AT YARZE. MUSLIMS WANTED THAT CHANGED TO GIVE THEM FAIR REPRESENTATION. SOLUTION HE FELT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT UNDER A NEW ARMY LAW WHICH WOULD SUBORDINATE THE ARMY COMMANDER TO A FIVE-MAN COUNCIL WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE COMMANDER BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE NON-CHRISTIANS AND WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNATED BY THE CABINET. HOSS SAID THAT ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO HE WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE TO GET AN ARMY BILL IN ITS PRESENT FORM PASSED. NOW, HOWEVER, A GREAT PART OF THE WORK ON IT, INCLUDING MANY OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, HAD BEEN SETTLED AND HE THOUGHT THE BILL COULD BE PASSED IN OCTOBER. ONCE BILL WAS PASSED MOSLEMS WOULD HAVE MUCH MORE CONFIDENCE IN ARMY AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO USE IT IN BEIRUT. UNTIL THAT TIME SYRIAN PRESENCE IN THE CITY WAS NECESSARY. IF SYRIAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05283 111517Z

ARMY WERE WITHDRAWN, THE CIVIL WAR WOULD BREAK OUT AGAIN AT ONCE.

4. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE SITUATION WOULD HOLD THAT LONG. HOSS SEEMED ABLE TO REGARD THAT FACT WITH SOME PHILOSOPHICAL DETACHMENT. HE DID NOT CONVEY A GREAT FEELING OF URGENCY. HE SAID PRESIDENT WAS HOPING TO DESIGNATE A NEW GOVERNMENT AND HE THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HELP. HE SAID THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE PRESIDENT, WITH THE PRESIDENT THINKING THAT HE SHOULD NAME THE CABINET AND THEN WORK OUT AGREED PROGRAM; WHILE HOSS FELT THERE SHOULD BE AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE ON THE PLATFORM TO WHICH NEW MEMBERS WOULD AGREE BEFORE ENTERING. HE THOUGHT HIS APPROACH MIGHT BE EASIER, BUT IF THE PRESIDENT'S WOULD WORK, THAT WAS OK WITH HIM. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD NOT AGREE TO SERVE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. HE COMMENTED EARLIER IN CONVERSATION THAT, AS A RESULT OF STRESS AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT'S ABORTED RESIGNATION, HE HAD GOTTEN DIABETES. (AMBASSADOR BELIEVES HE HAD IT BEFORE AND IT MAY MEAN THAT HE SIMPLY HAD A FLARE-UP.)

5. CLUVERIUS AND KINSOLVING ALSO CALLED ON THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE KAMEL AL ASSAD SAME DAY AND HAD A RATHER INCONSEQUENTIAL DISCUSSION WITH HIM.

PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT05283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0925
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780979/aaaacncx.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ffef5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1475460
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LEBANON--CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE, SY, (AL-HOSS, SALIM AHMAD), (CLUVERIUS, WAT V IV), (PARKER, RICHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ffef5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014